

# Summary of Important Community Issues in Dorney Parish in 2024

## Planning and Development

- **Orchard Herbs site:** The owner appealed the enforcement notice issued by Bucks Council regarding unauthorised use and development, with a hearing in September. Residents were encouraged to submit their objections to the appeal. The appeal was ultimately rejected, with the Secretary of State for Communities upholding the enforcement notice, but the site owner has the option to apply to the High Court for a judicial review. [February-December]
- **Eton College's Boveney Court Farm development:** Eton College appealed the refusal of planning permission for a large residential development on the site. Residents raised concerns about the impact on the Green Belt, Boveney's character, and traffic congestion. The appeal was rejected in June. [March-December]
- **Court Farm development proposal:** A planning application was submitted for a development on this site, prompting concern from residents about the scale of the project and potential impact on Dorney's character. [May-November]
- **Dorney Neighbourhood Plan:** Progress was made on developing the plan, with community involvement sought for reviewing the draft. However, changes to national planning policy introduced uncertainty and required adjustments. [September-November]

## Traffic and Safety

- **Speeding traffic on Common Road:** Concerns persisted about speeding vehicles and the safety of cattle grazing on Dorney Common, leading to calls for a reduced speed limit and other safety measures. [May-September]
- **Dangerous parking:** Issues with inconsiderate parking were reported, including at the entrance to Oak Stubbs Lane, the Pineapple Pub, and outside a resident's flat. [February, May, June]
- **Road and infrastructure maintenance:** Complaints were made about the condition of several roads, including Court Lane, Marsh Lane, and the cattle grid on Village Road, with calls for resurfacing and repairs. [February-December]

## Community Facilities and Services

- **Burnham Health Centre:** Residents expressed dissatisfaction with the performance of the centre, particularly regarding access to appointments. The issue was raised with the local MP, who promised to address concerns. [March-May]
- **Dorney Lake access:** Residents reiterated their desire for year-round controlled access to Dorney Lake, with the Parish Council seeking to resume meetings with the Lake management. [May-July]
- **Anti-social behaviour at Trumper's Field:** Issues arose from people using the Village Hall car park late at night, prompting the implementation of a trial gate-locking system by volunteers. The Parish Council is seeking a longer-term solution. [September-November]
- **Dorney Village Hall:** Discussions took place about the potential transfer of the Village Hall charity to Dorney Parish Council, with a decision pending further advice from the Charities Commission. [May-November]

## Environment

- **Flooding on Lake End Common:** Concerns were raised about flooding believed to be caused by water releases from the Dorney Treatment Works. The Parish Council planned to contact Thames Water to investigate the issue. [September]
- **Thames Water Treatment Works upgrade:** Thames Water provided updates on planned improvements to the Slough Treatment Works, assuring residents that work is progressing, albeit behind the scenes. [November]
- **Eton Wick Waterways Group (EWWG):** The group pursued funding for water restoration projects and provided guidance to residents on riparian responsibilities. [November]

## Community Engagement and Participation

Throughout the year, Dorney residents actively engaged in local issues through Parish Council meetings, residents' groups, and public consultations, demonstrating a strong sense of community spirit and a commitment to shaping the future of the Parish.

## Overall Themes

- **Protecting Dorney's unique character and environment** remains a key concern, particularly in light of development pressures.
- **Balancing the need for development with the preservation of Dorney's rural identity** is a key challenge, requiring careful planning and community input.
- **Improving communication and collaboration** between residents, the Parish Council, and other authorities is essential for addressing local concerns effectively.
- **Ensuring the long-term sustainability and well-being of the Parish** requires addressing infrastructure needs, managing environmental impacts, and fostering a strong sense of community.